

Drug Court Best Practices: Putting Them into Practice

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The Research

- Over the past 16 years, NPC has completed over 180 drug court evaluations and research studies nationally
- Adult, Juvenile, DWI/DUI and Family Treatment (Dependency) Drug Courts
- Including California, Guam, Idaho, Indiana, Florida, Ohio, Michigan, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, Oregon and Vermont

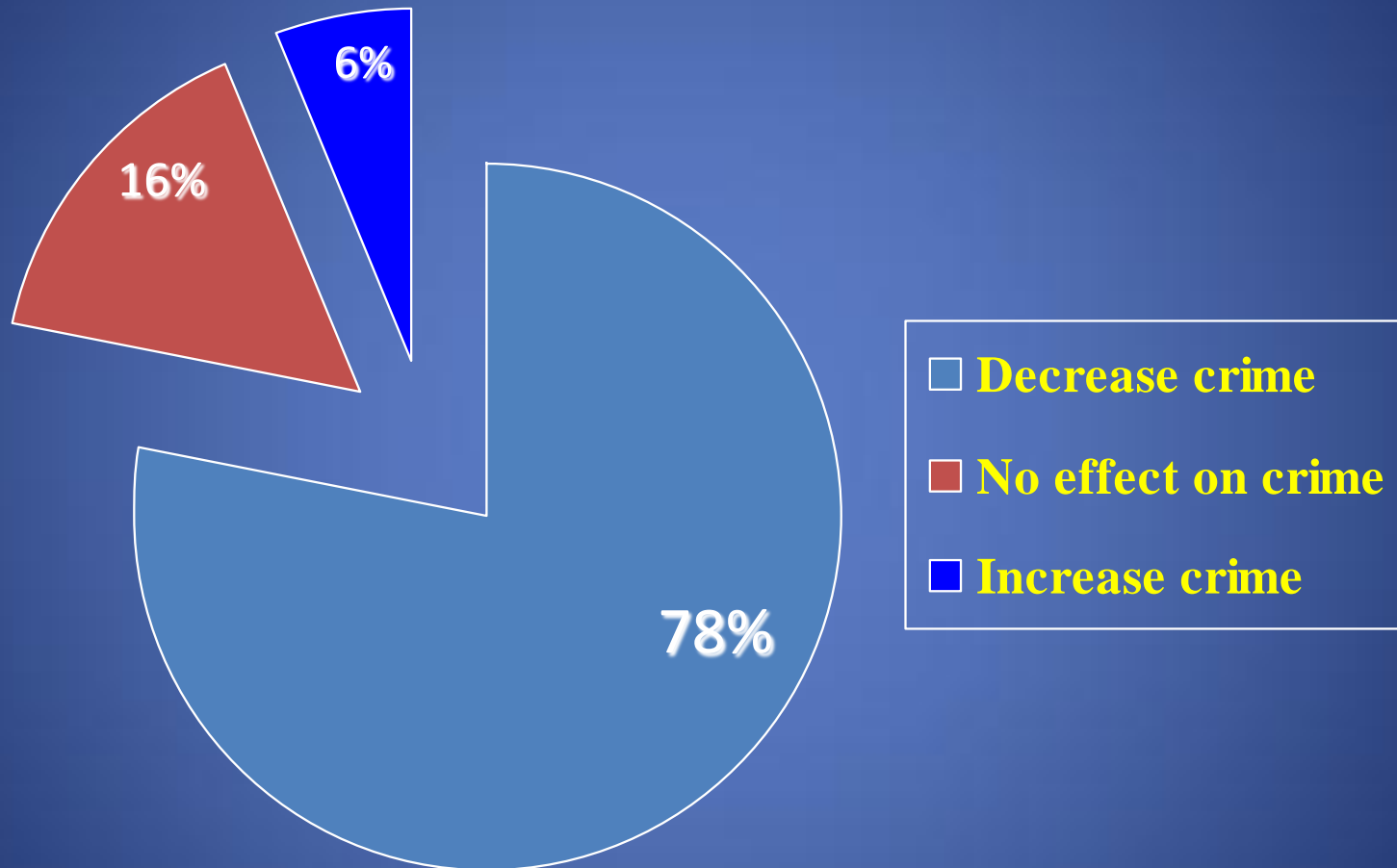
What We Already Know

Recidivism

- Drug Courts reduce recidivism
- Recidivism is decreased up to 14 years after participation
- Average reduction is about 18%
- Some courts more than 60%



Variable Effects



(Wilson et al., 2006; Lowenkamp et al., 2005; Shaffer, 2006)

What is Working?

What is Working?

- *Looked at 101 drug courts around the nation (detailed process studies/10 KC)*
- *69 included recidivism and cost evaluations*
- ***In total, this study included 32,719 individuals (16,317 drug court participants and 16,402 comparison group members).***

What is Working?

- *Trying to make the 10KC understandable in a much more specific way – through specific practices*
- *What are the best drug courts doing?*

Found over 50 practices that were related to significantly lower recidivism or lower costs, or both

Themes: What Works

- Team Engagement
- Wraparound Services
- Drug Testing
- Responses to Participant Behavior
- Drug Court Hearings and the Judge's Role
- Data Collection and Monitoring
- Training

Themes in Best Practices

Multidisciplinary Team:

- *Teams Sink or Swim Together*
- *Relationships Matter*

Case Management and Supervision: Incentive and sanction guidelines/drug testing

- *Structure, Consistency, and Accountability*
- *Setting the Program and Participants up for Success*

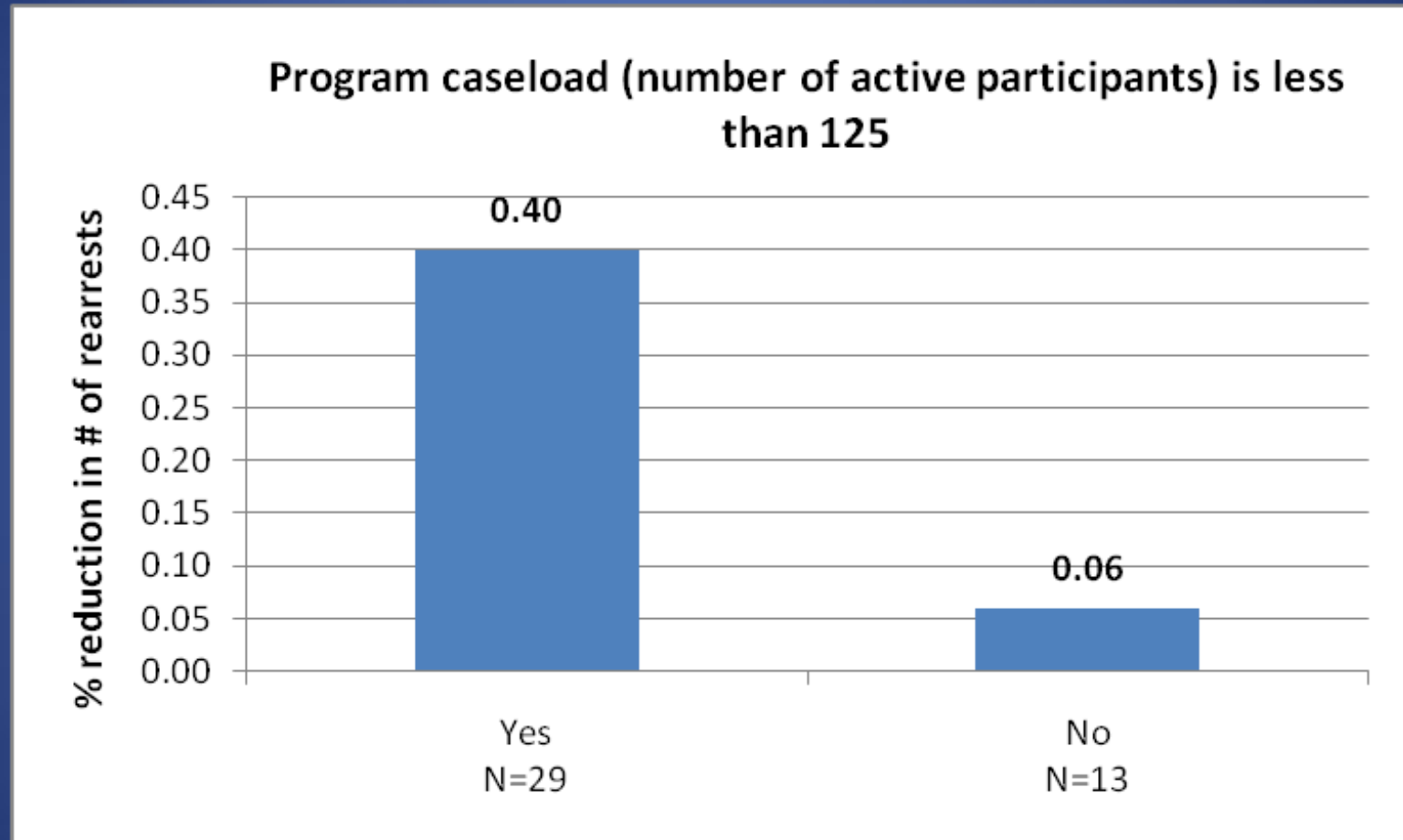
Data and Evaluation:

- *Continuous Program Improvement Leads to Positive Outcomes*

Top 10 Best Practices

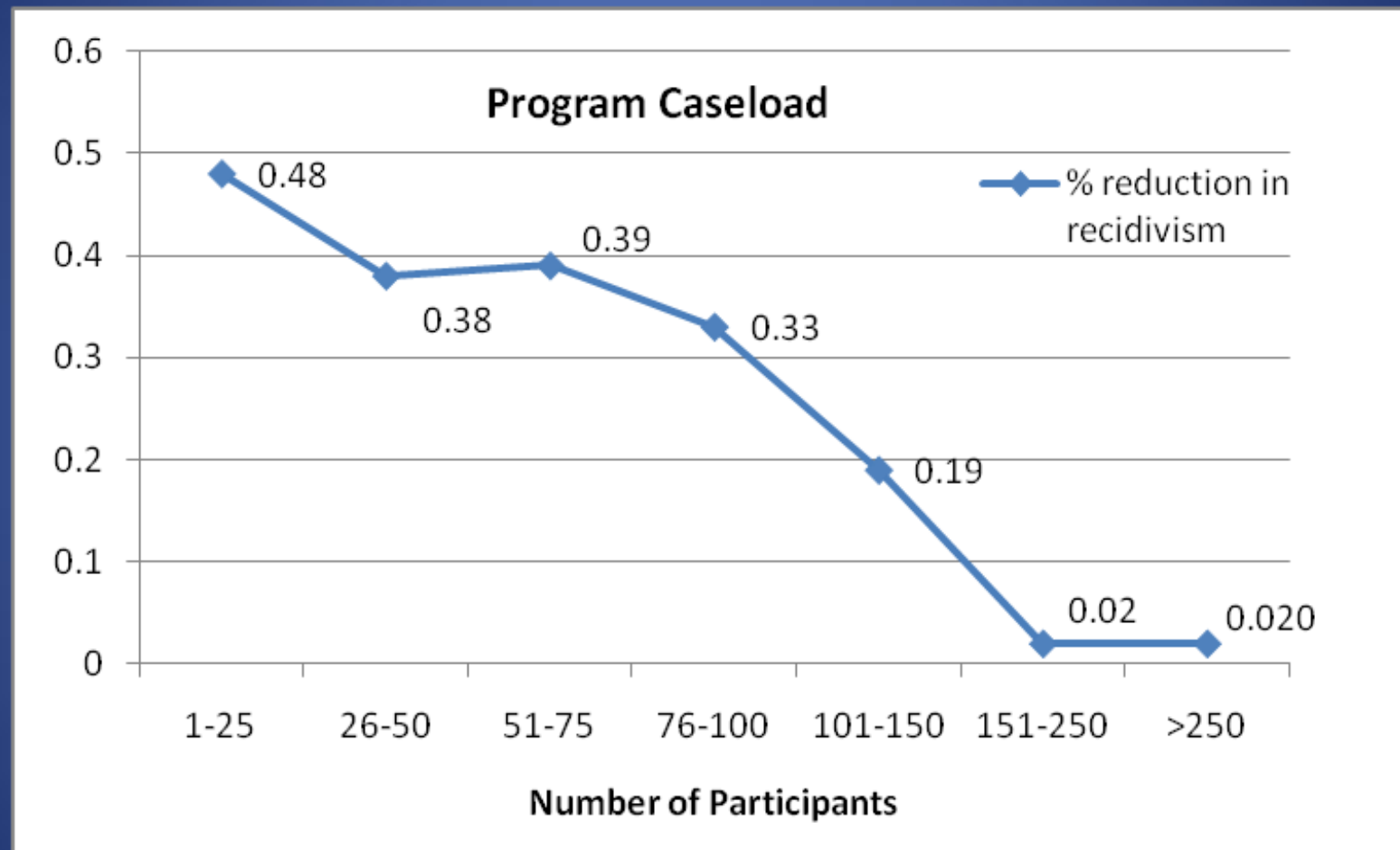
1. *Program caseload (number of active participants) is less than 125*

1. Drug courts with a program caseload (number of active participants) of less than 125 had 567% greater reductions in recidivism



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

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In larger drug courts:

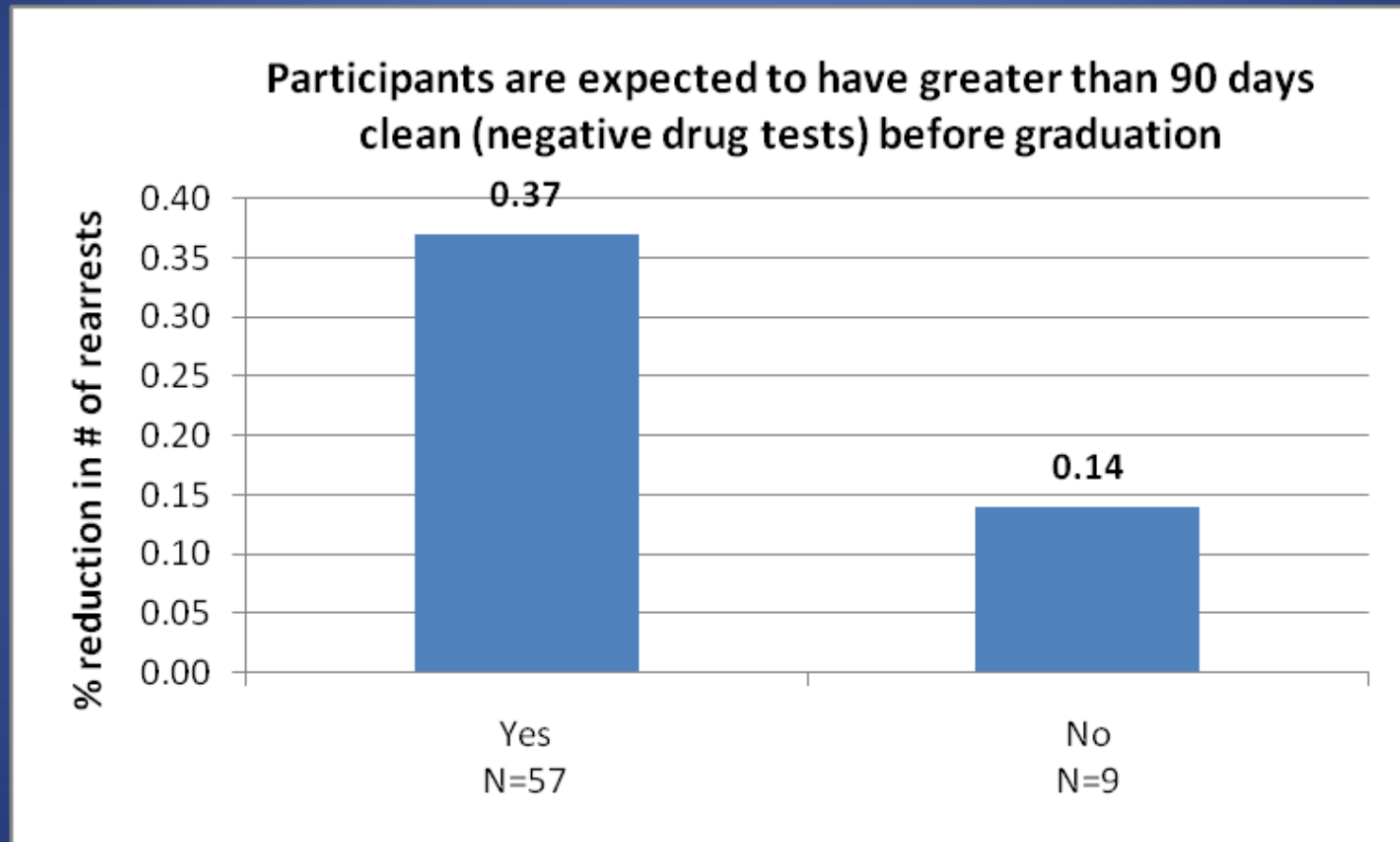
- The Judge spent less time per participant in court (nearly half the time)
- Tx and LE were less likely to attend staffings
(All team members were less likely to attend staffings)
- Tx and LE was were less likely to attend court hearings
- Tx was less likely to communicate with the court through email
- Greater number of Tx agencies (8 vs 3)
- Drug tests were less frequent
- Team members were less likely to be trained

*All findings above were statistically significant ($p < .05$)

Top 10 Best Practices

1. *Program caseload (number of active participants) is less than 125*
2. *Participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation*

2. Drug courts where participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation had 164% greater reductions in recidivism

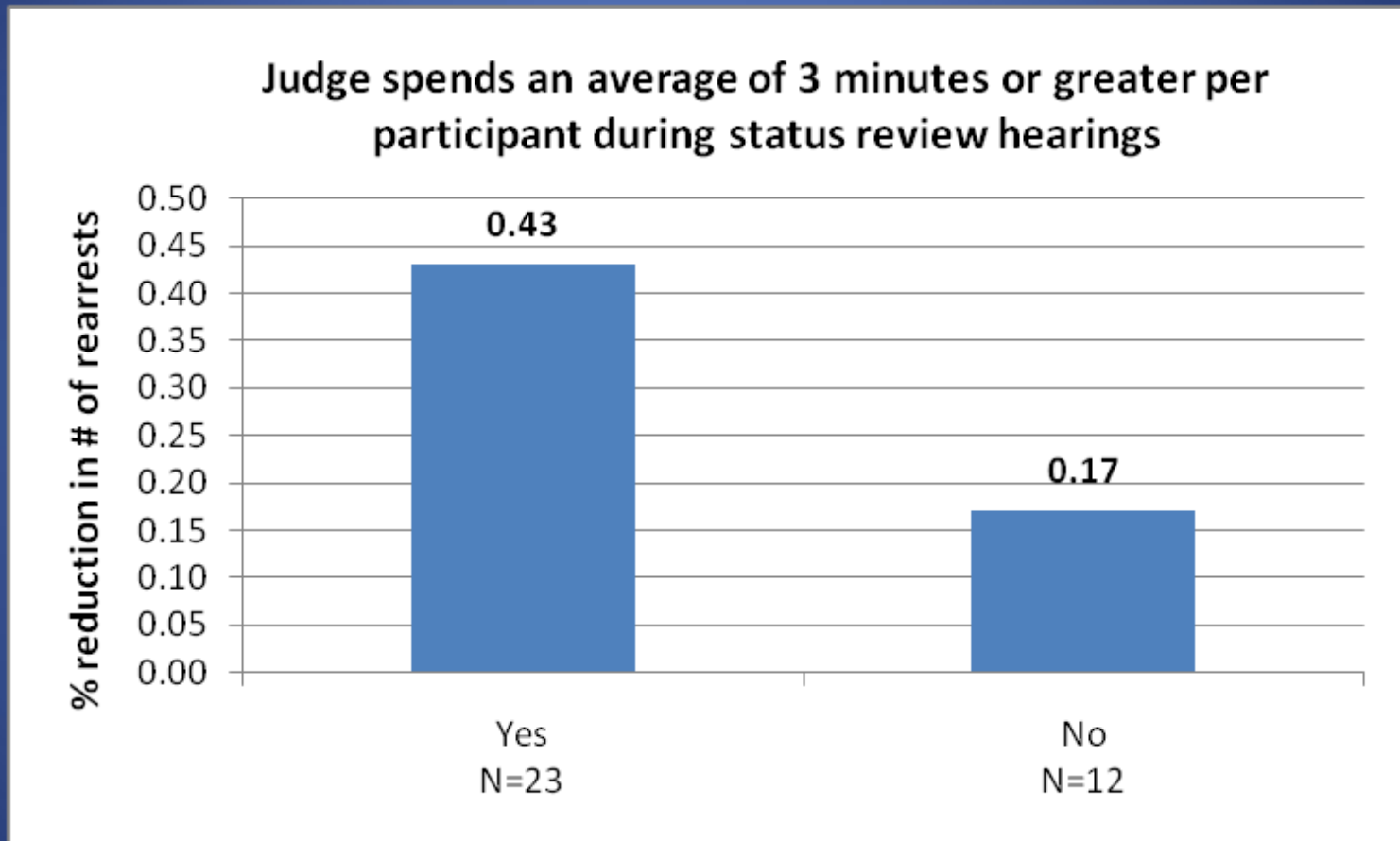


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .15$ (Trend)

Top 10 Best Practices

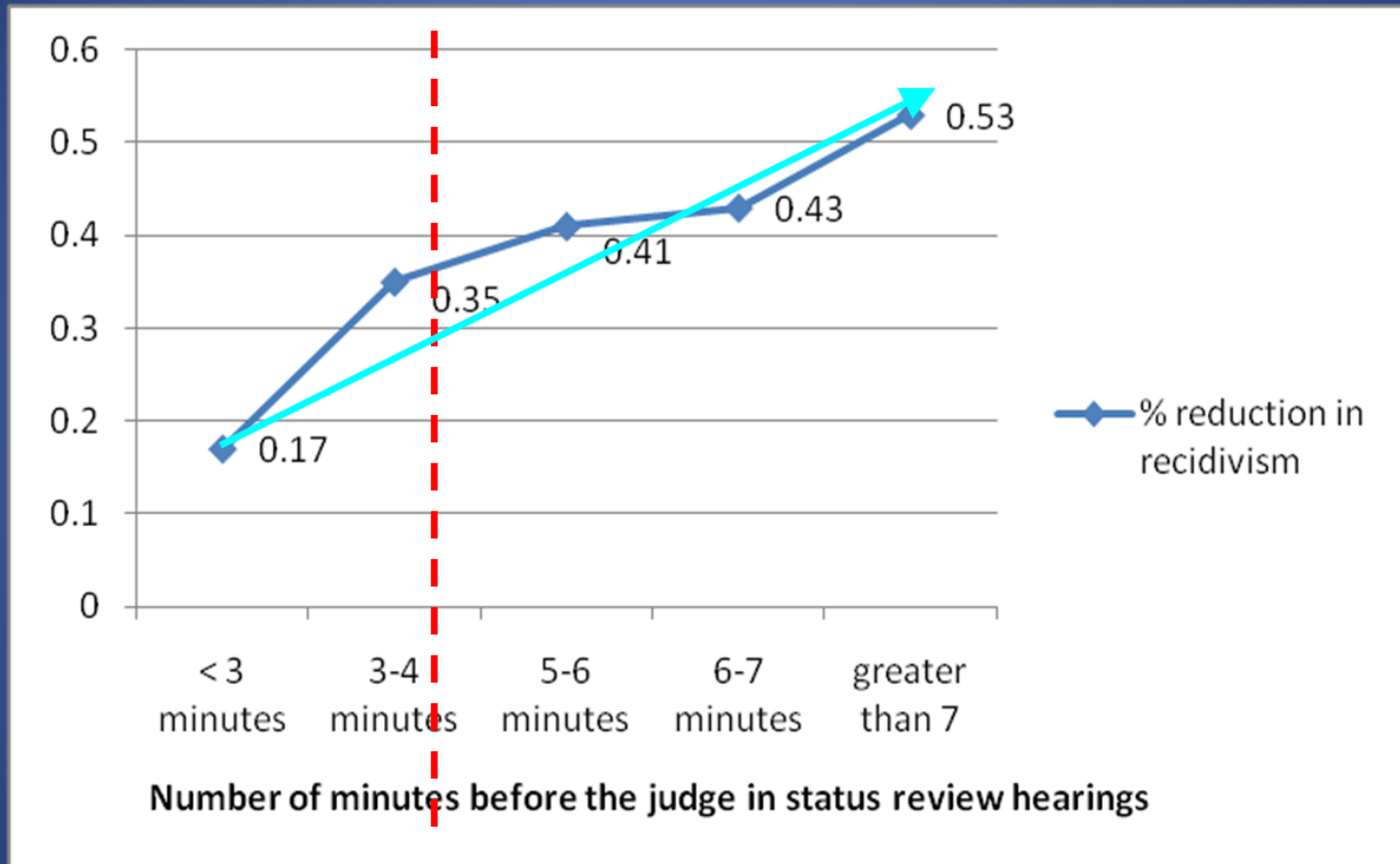
1. *Program caseload (number of active participants) is less than 125*
2. *Participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation*
3. *Judge spends an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant during status review hearings*

3. Drug courts where the judge spends an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant during court hearings had 153% greater reductions in recidivism



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

3. Drug courts where the judge spends an average of **3 minutes** or greater per participant during court hearings had 153% greater reductions in recidivism

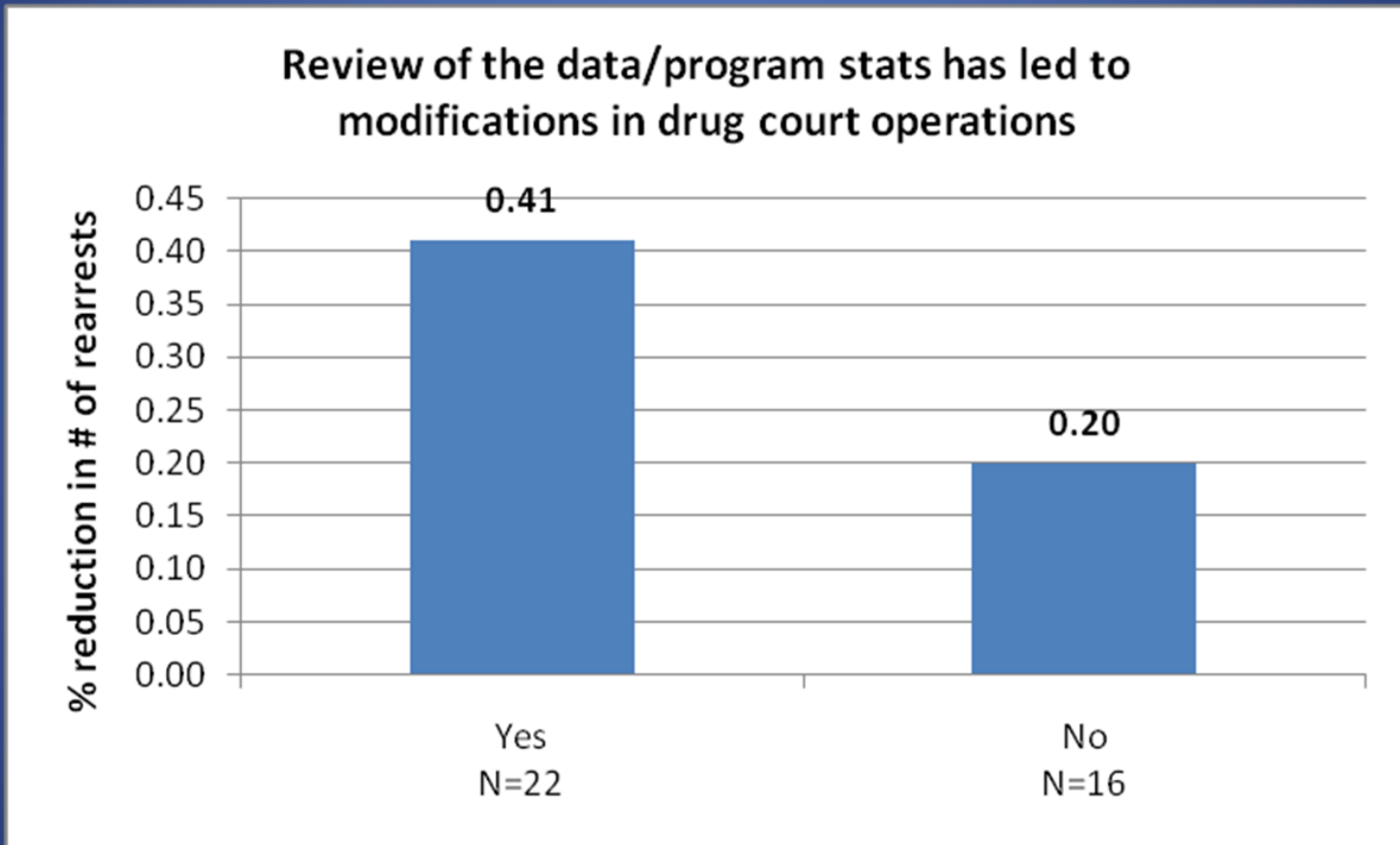


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Top 10 Best Practices

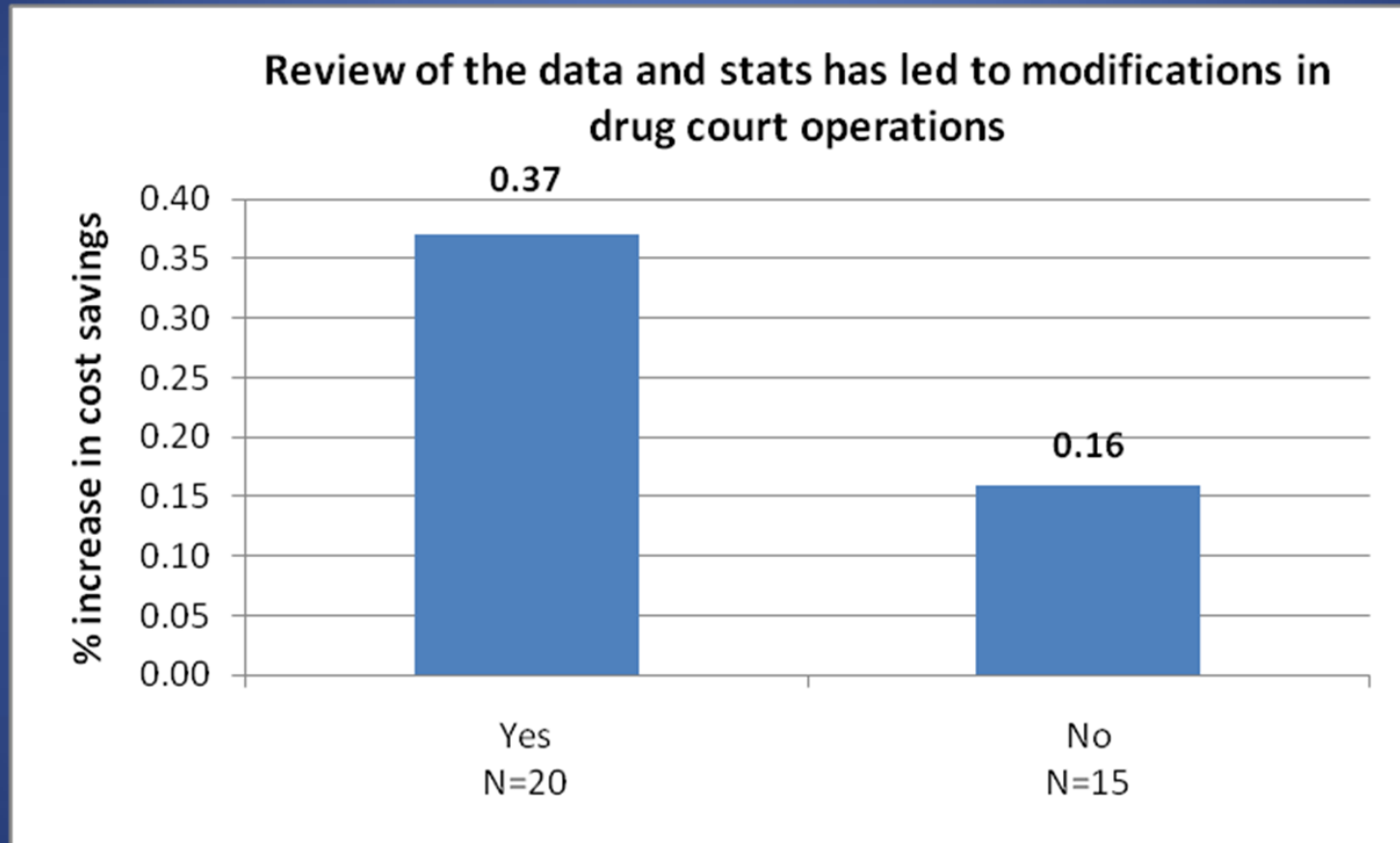
1. *Program caseload (number of active participants) is less than 125*
2. *Participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation*
3. *Judge spends an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant during status review hearings*
4. *Review of the data/program stats has led to modifications in drug court operations*

4. Drug courts where review of the data and/or program statistics led to modifications in program operations had 105% greater reductions in recidivism



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

4. Drug courts where review of the data and stats has led to modifications in drug court operations had 131% higher cost savings

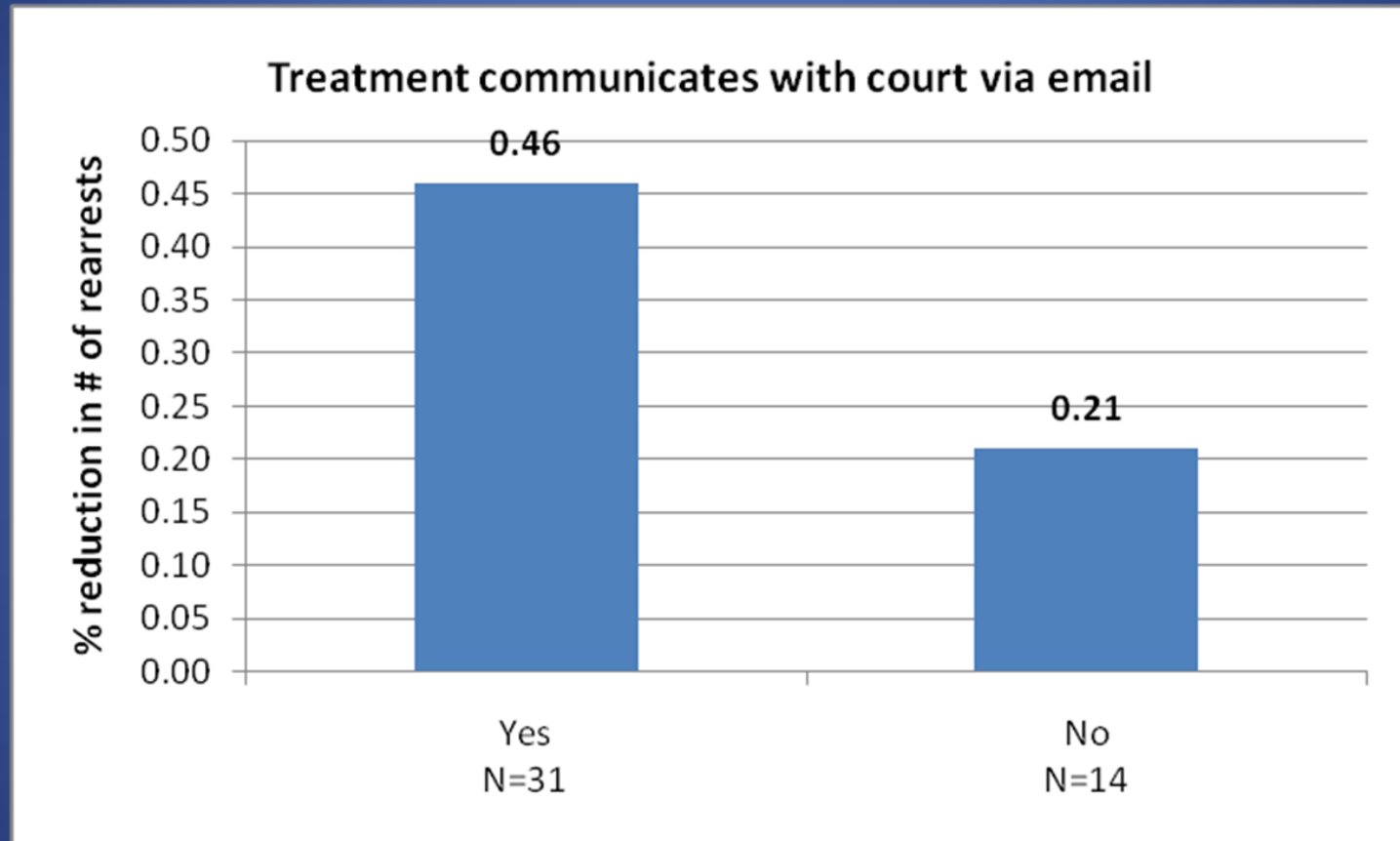


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Top 10 Best Practices

1. *Program caseload (number of active participants) is less than 125*
2. *Participants are expected to have greater than 90 days clean (negative drug tests) before graduation*
3. *Judge spends an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant during status review hearings*
4. *Review of the data/program stats has led to modifications in drug court operations*
5. ***Treatment communicates with court via email***

5. Drug courts where treatment communicates with the court via email had 119% greater reductions in recidivism

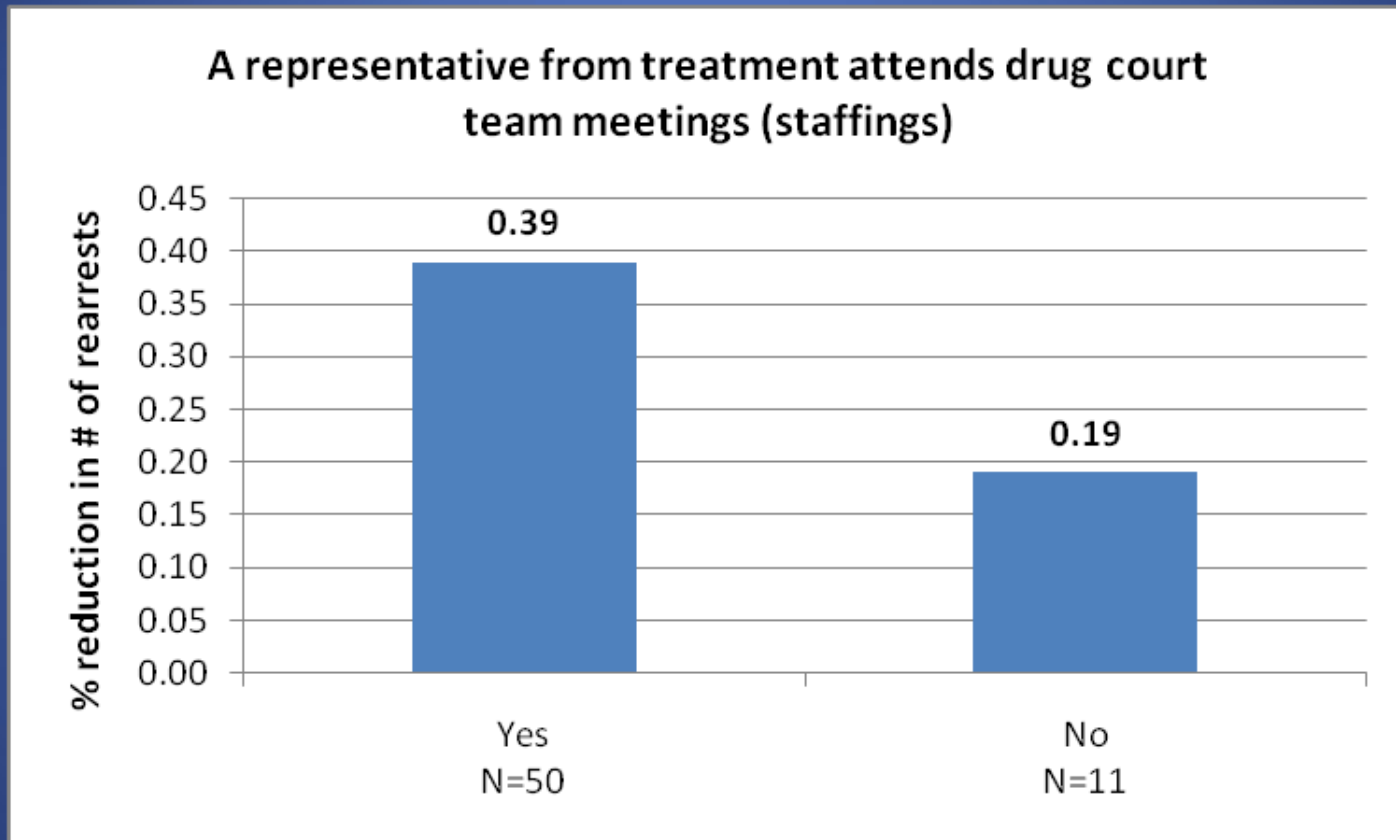


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .10$

Top 10 Best Practices

6. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*

6. Drug courts where a representative from treatment attends drug court meetings (staffings) had 105% greater reductions in recidivism

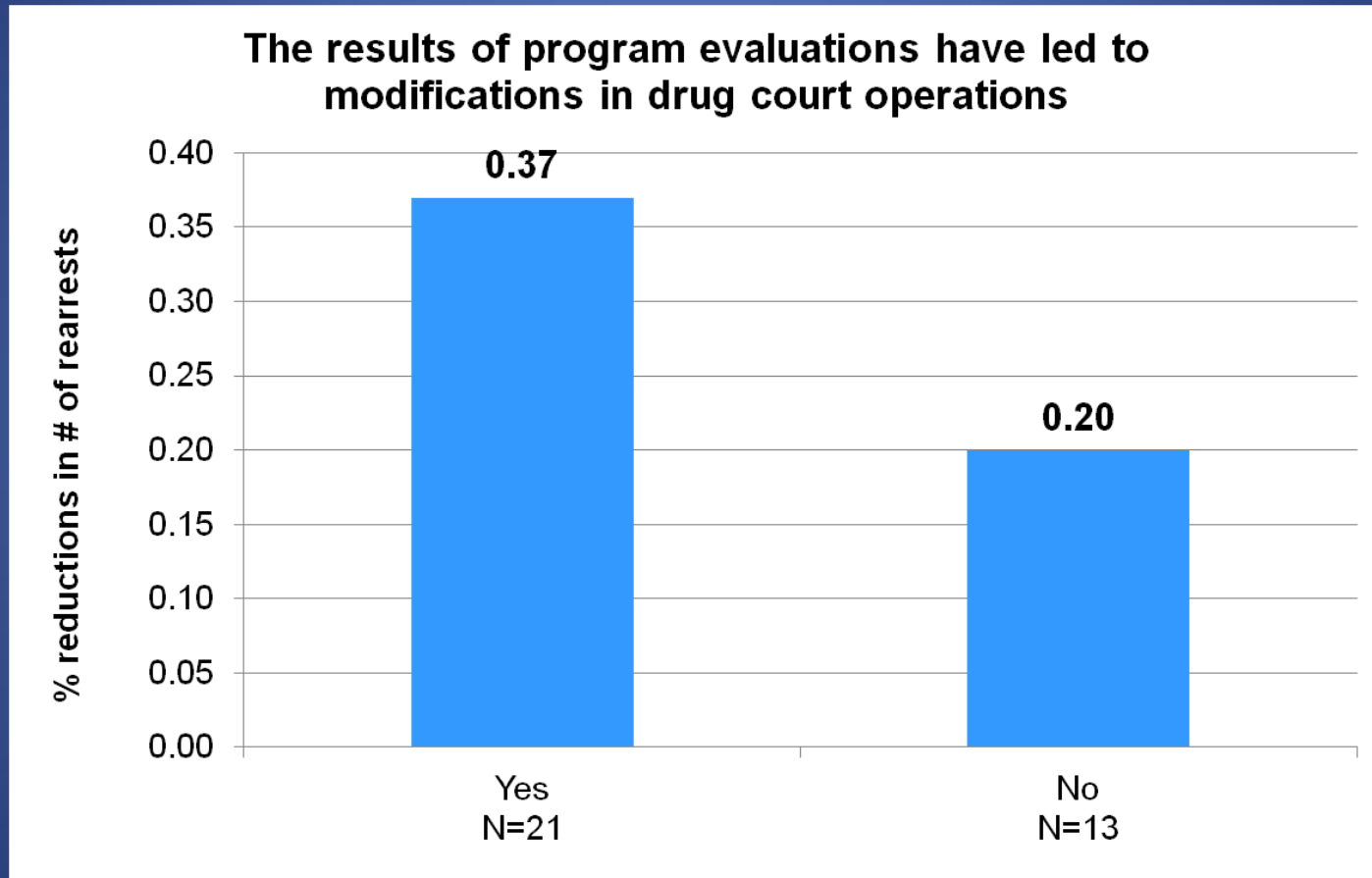


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .10$

Top 10 Best Practices

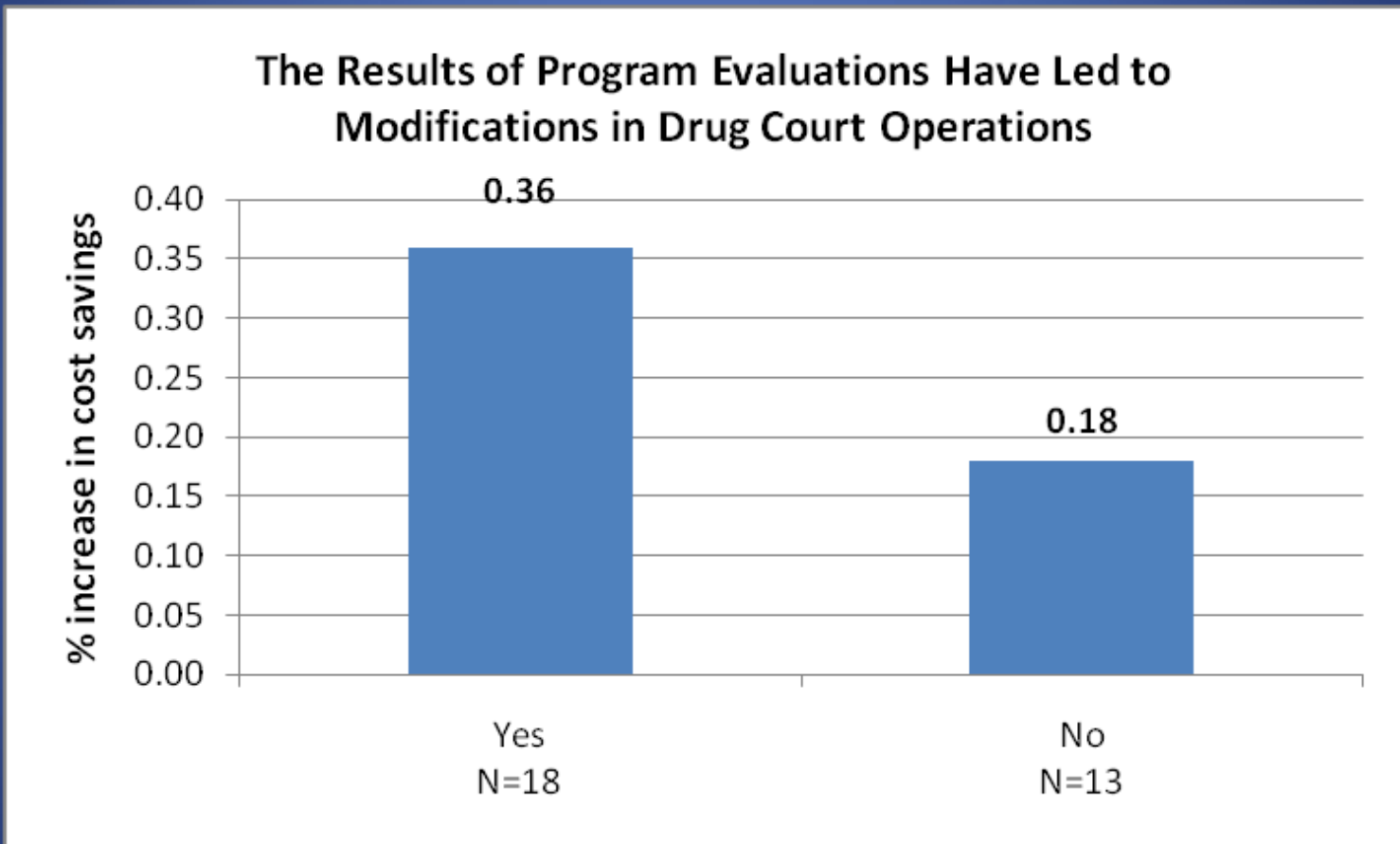
6. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*
7. *The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations*

**7. Drug courts that used program evaluations to make modifications
in drug court operations had
85% greater reductions in recidivism**



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .10$

7. Drug courts where the results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations had 100% higher cost savings

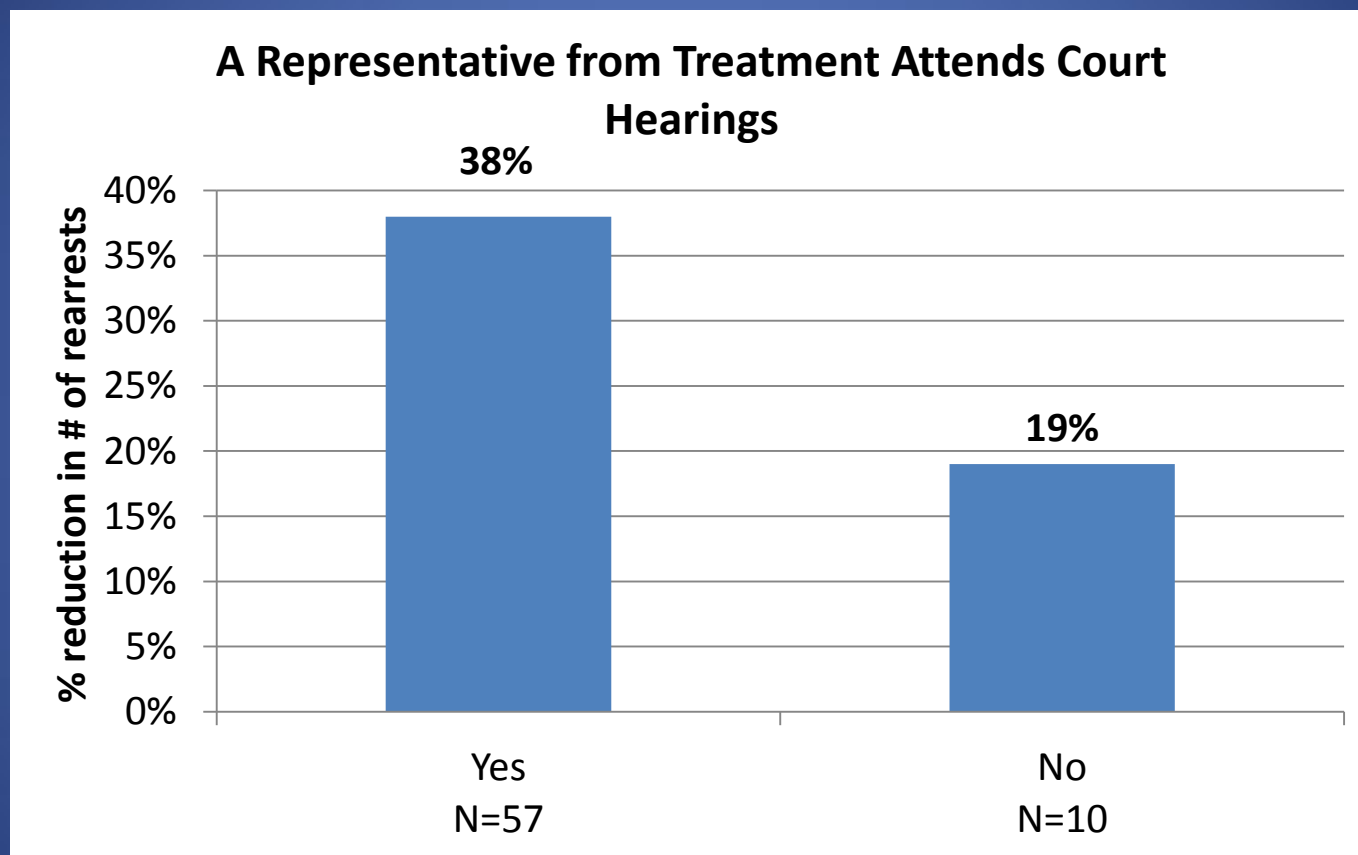


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Top 10 Best Practices

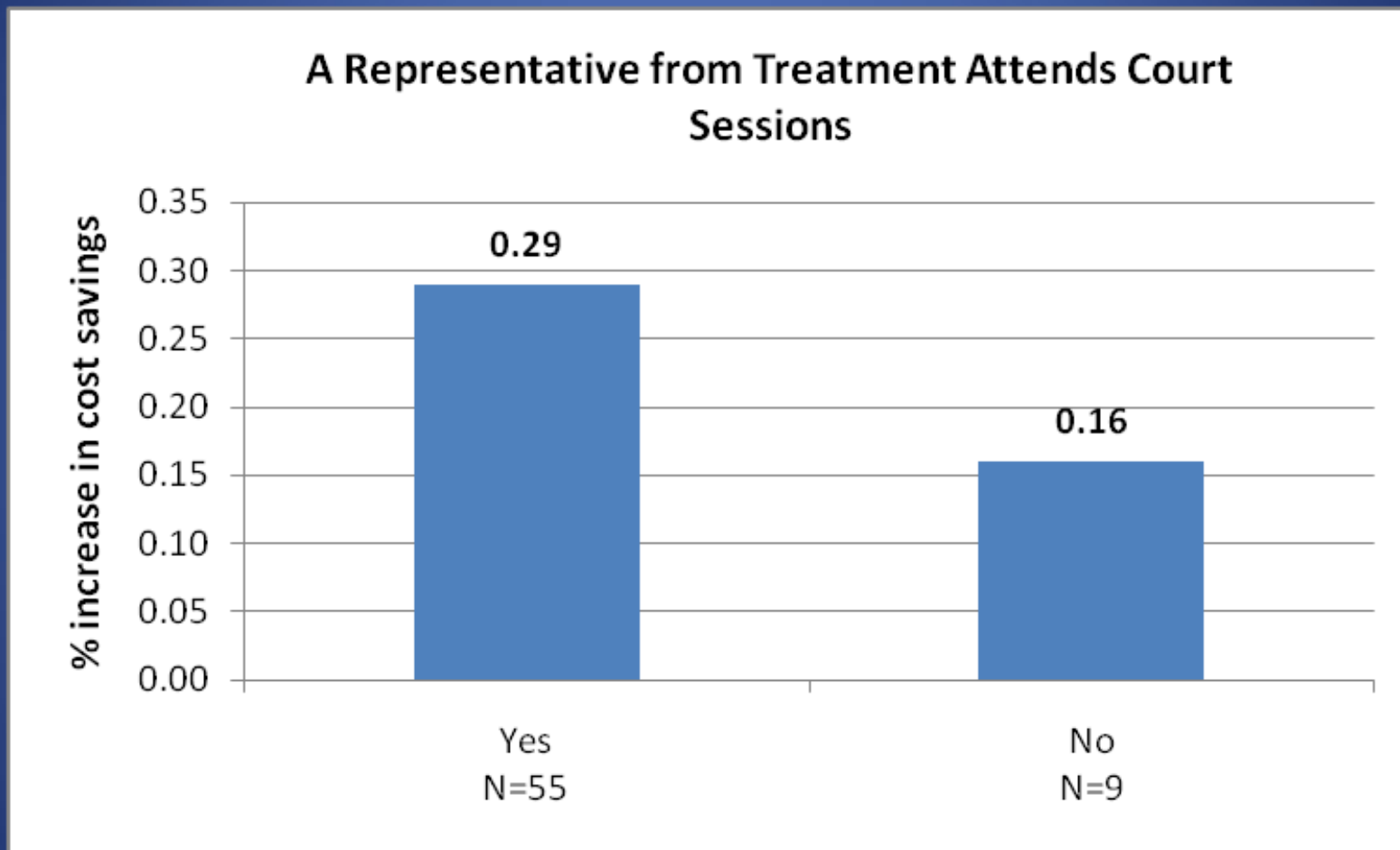
6. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*
7. *The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations*
8. *A representative from treatment attends court sessions*

8. Drug courts where a treatment representative attends court hearings had 100% greater reductions in recidivism



Note: Difference is significant at $p < .10$

8. Drug courts where a treatment representative attends court sessions had 81% higher cost savings

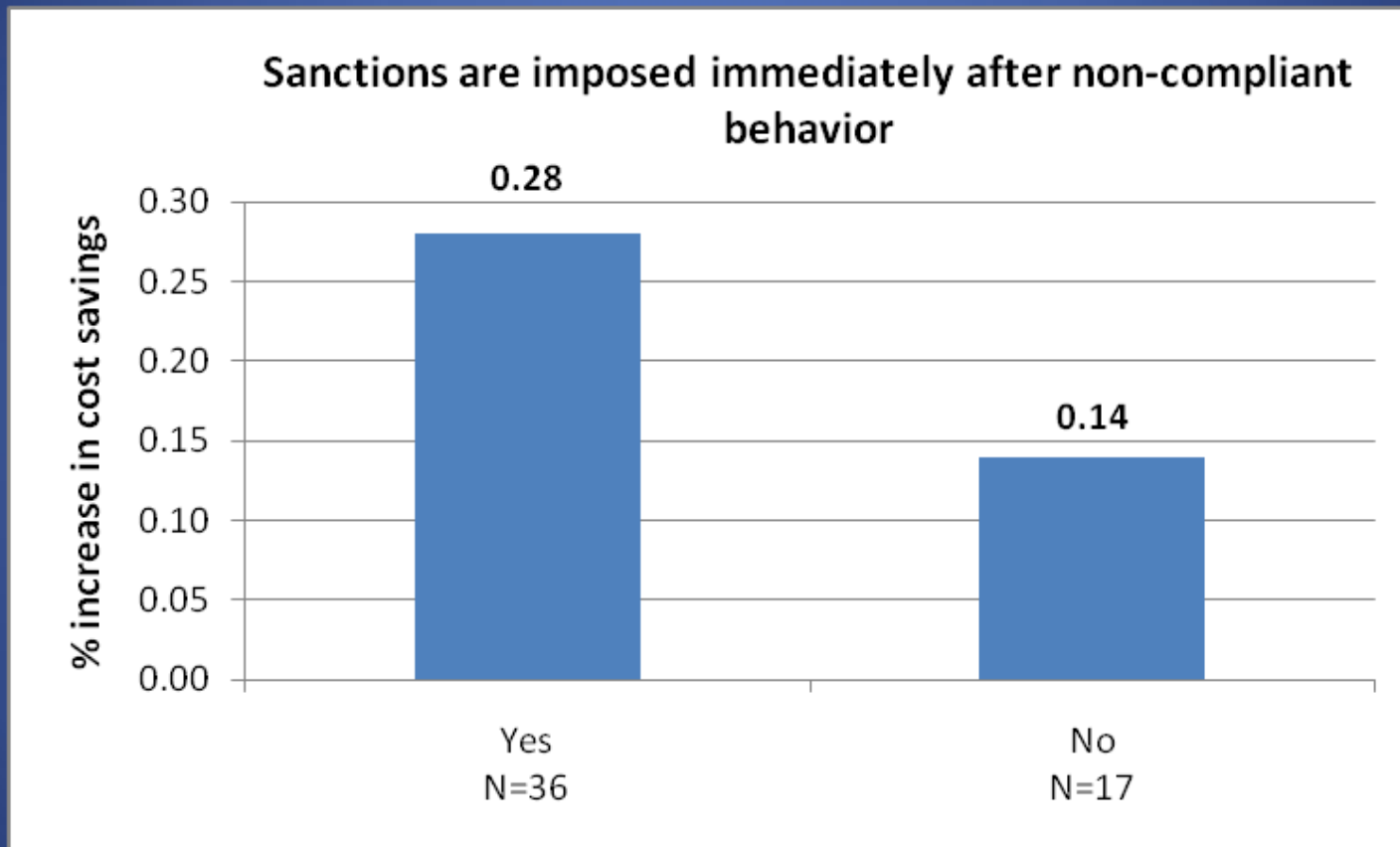


Note: Difference is significant at $p > .10$

Top 10 Best Practices

6. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*
7. *The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations*
8. *A representative from treatment attends court sessions*
9. *Sanctions are imposed immediately after non-compliant behavior (e.g., in advance of a client's regularly scheduled court hearing)*

9. Drug courts where sanctions are imposed immediately after non-compliant behavior had 100% higher cost savings

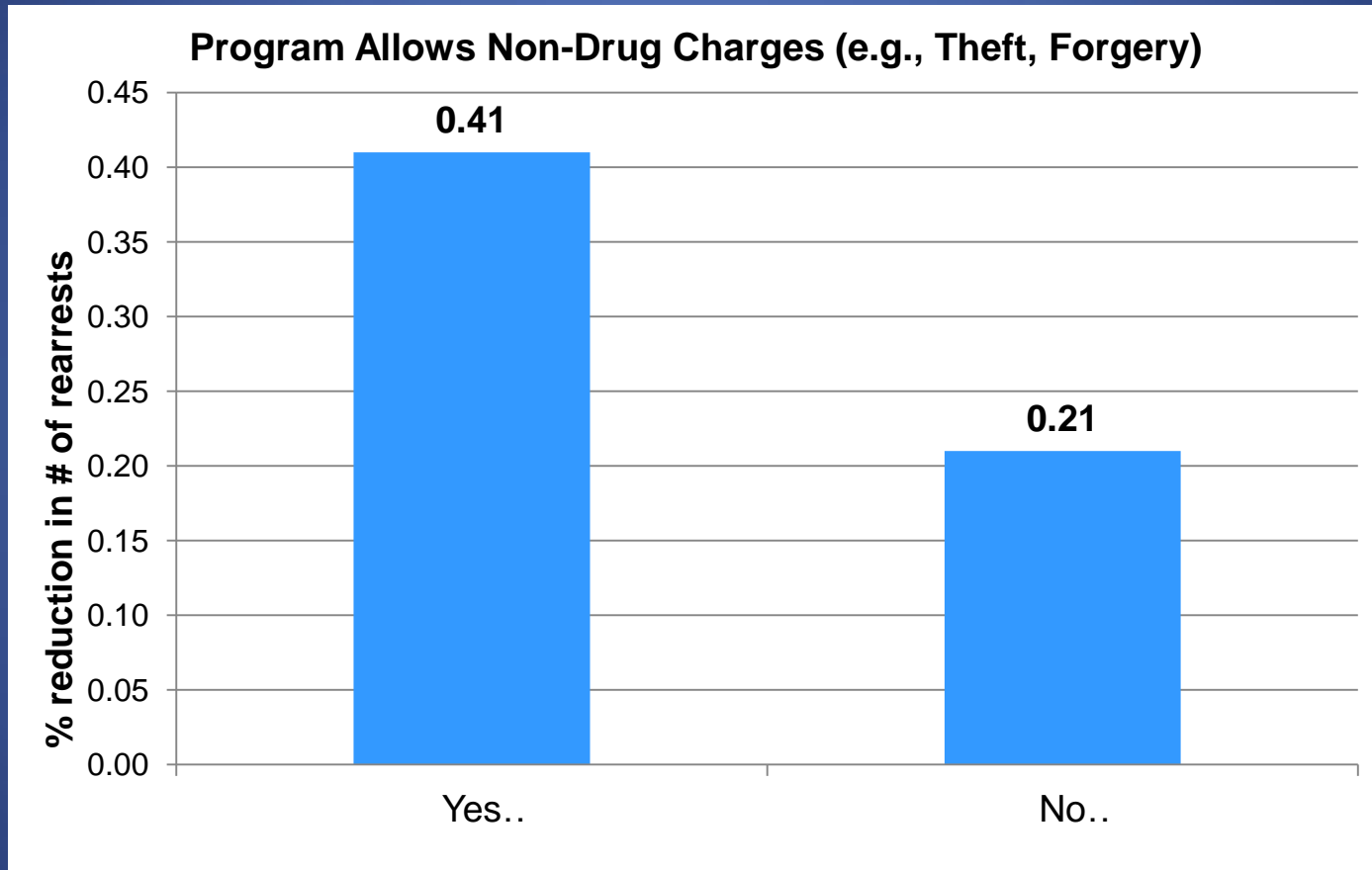


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Top 10 Best Practices

6. *A representative from treatment attends drug court team meetings (staffings)*
7. *The results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations*
8. *A representative from treatment attends court sessions*
9. *Sanctions are imposed immediately after non-compliant behavior (e.g., in advance of a client's regularly scheduled court hearing)*
10. *Drug court allows non-drug charges*

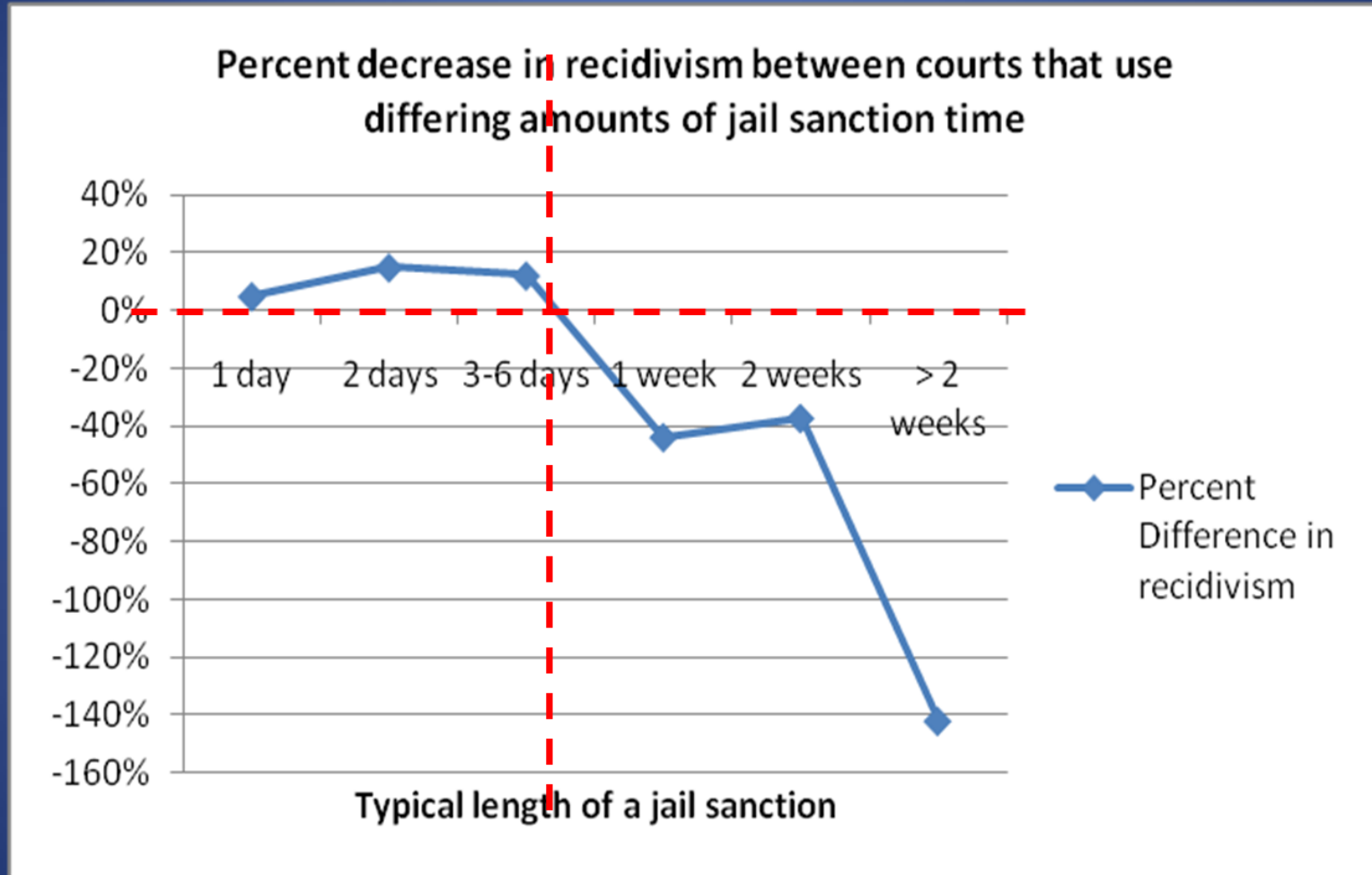
**10. Drug courts that allow non-drug charges had
95% greater reductions in recidivism**



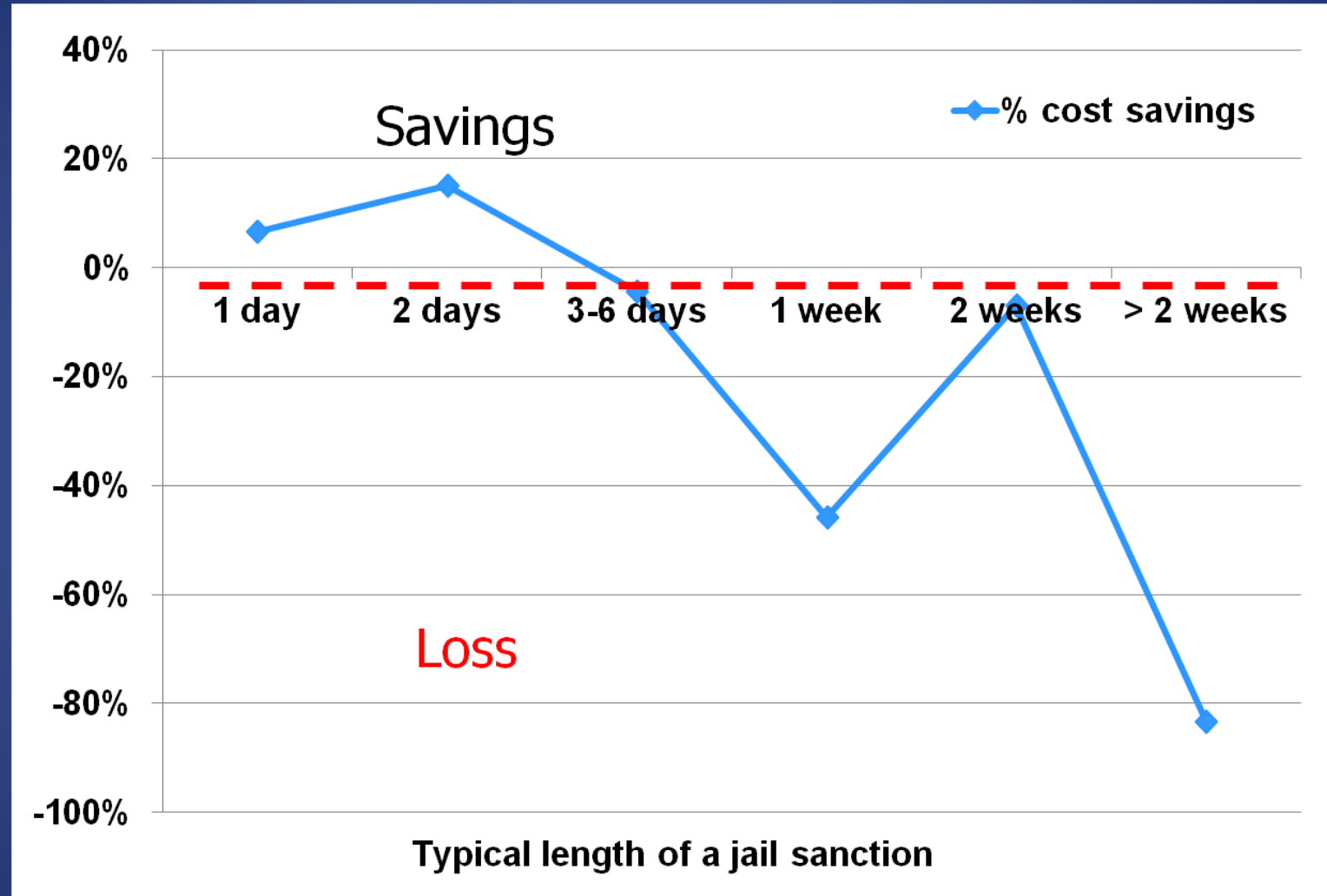
Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Additional Best Practices of Particular Interest

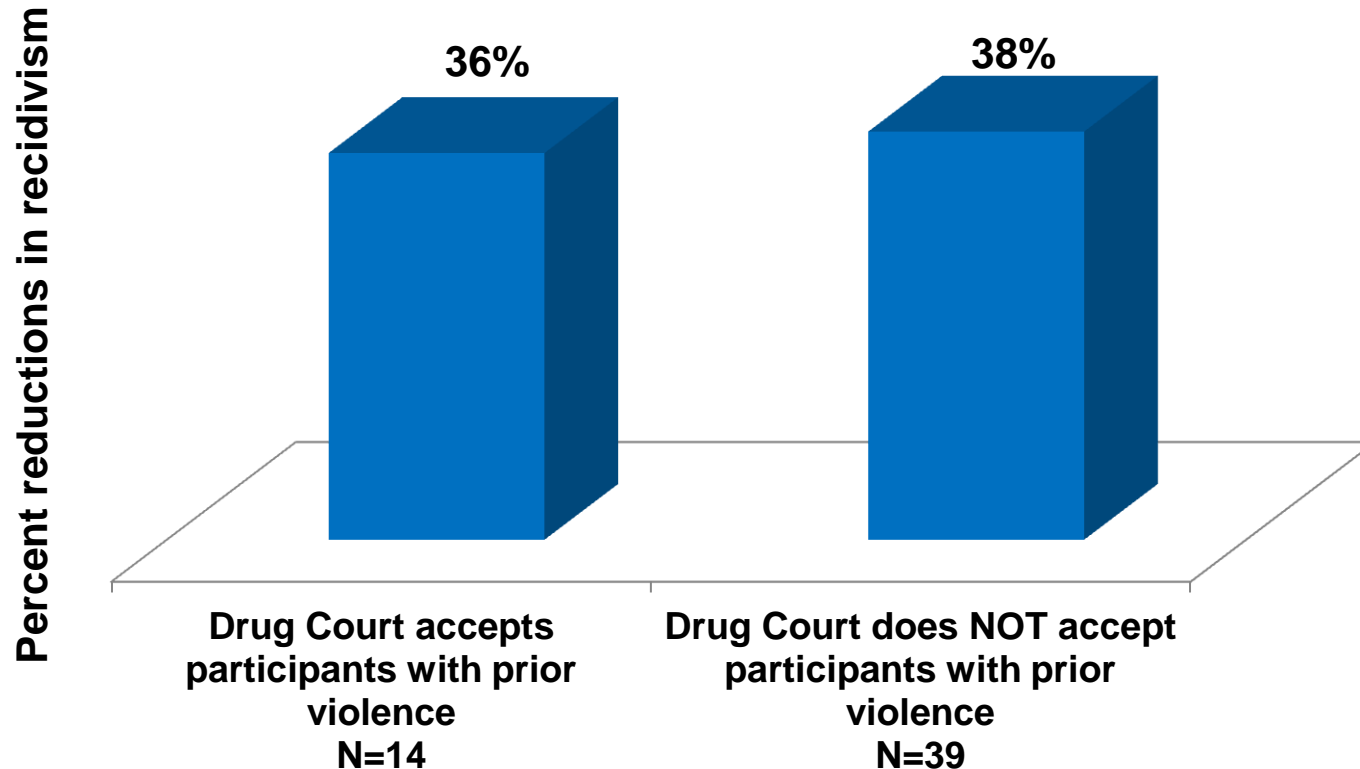
Courts that use jail greater than 6 days have **worse** (higher) recidivism



More jail time is related to higher costs

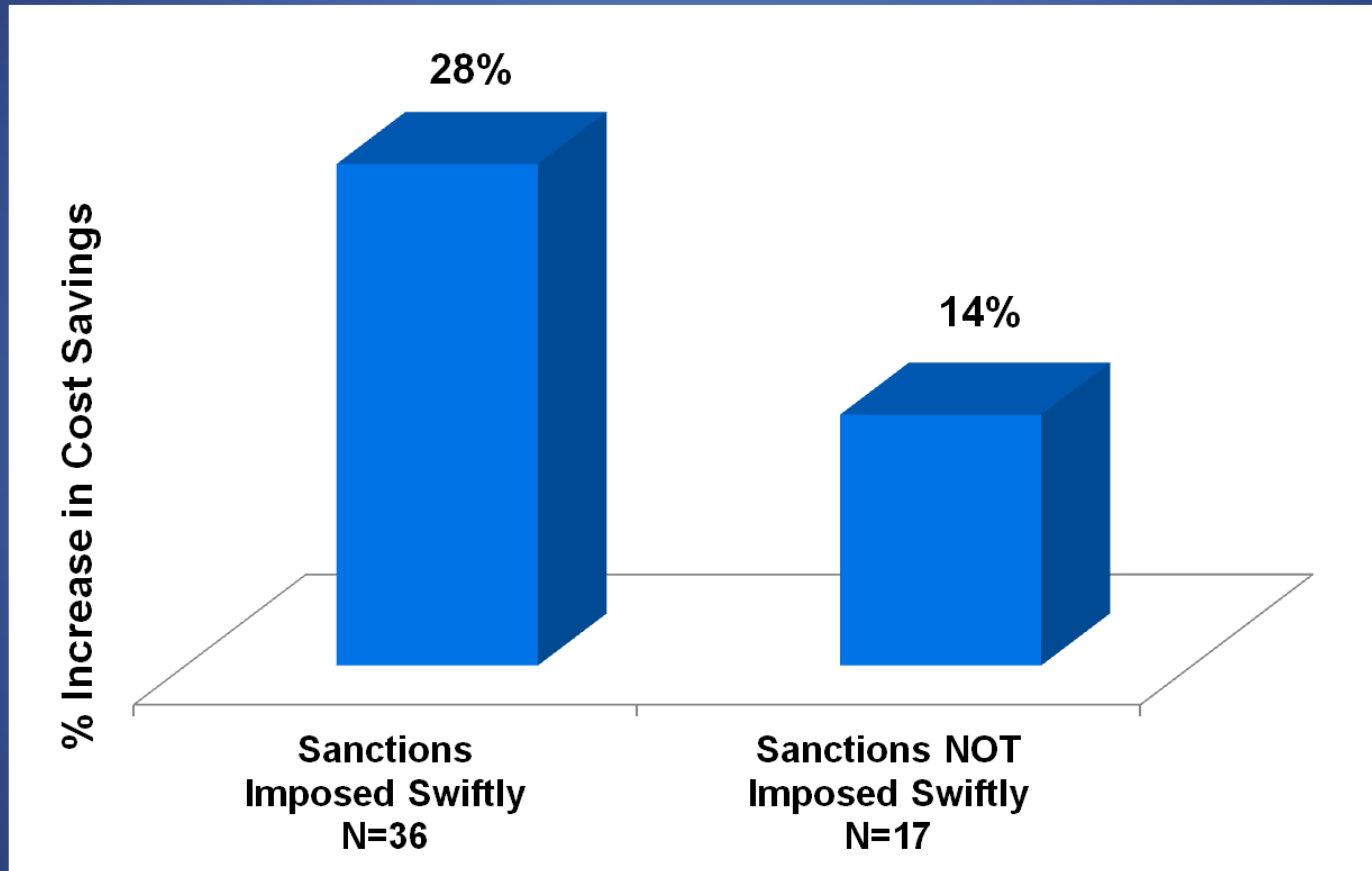


Drug courts that accepted participants with prior violence had equal reductions in recidivism



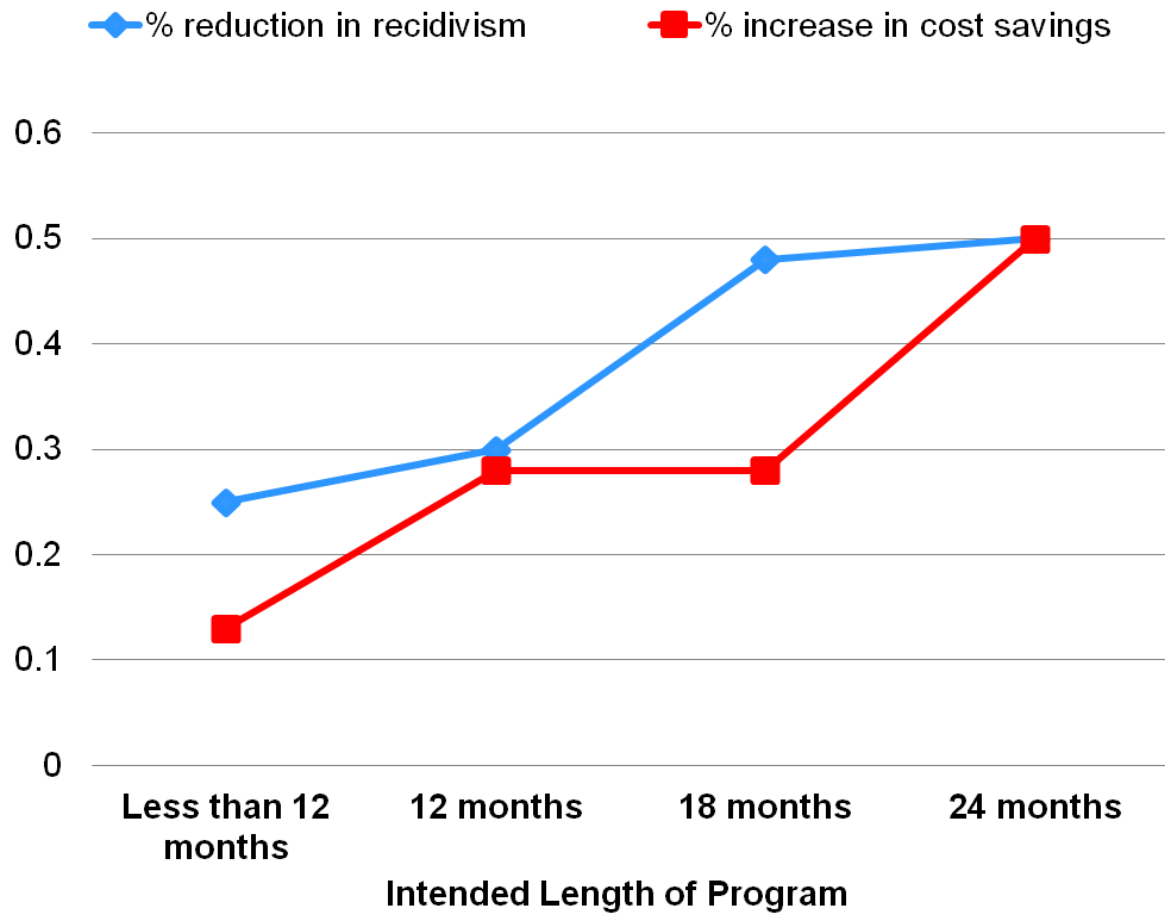
Note: Difference NOT significant

Drug courts where sanctions were imposed in advance of a regularly scheduled court hearing had double the cost savings

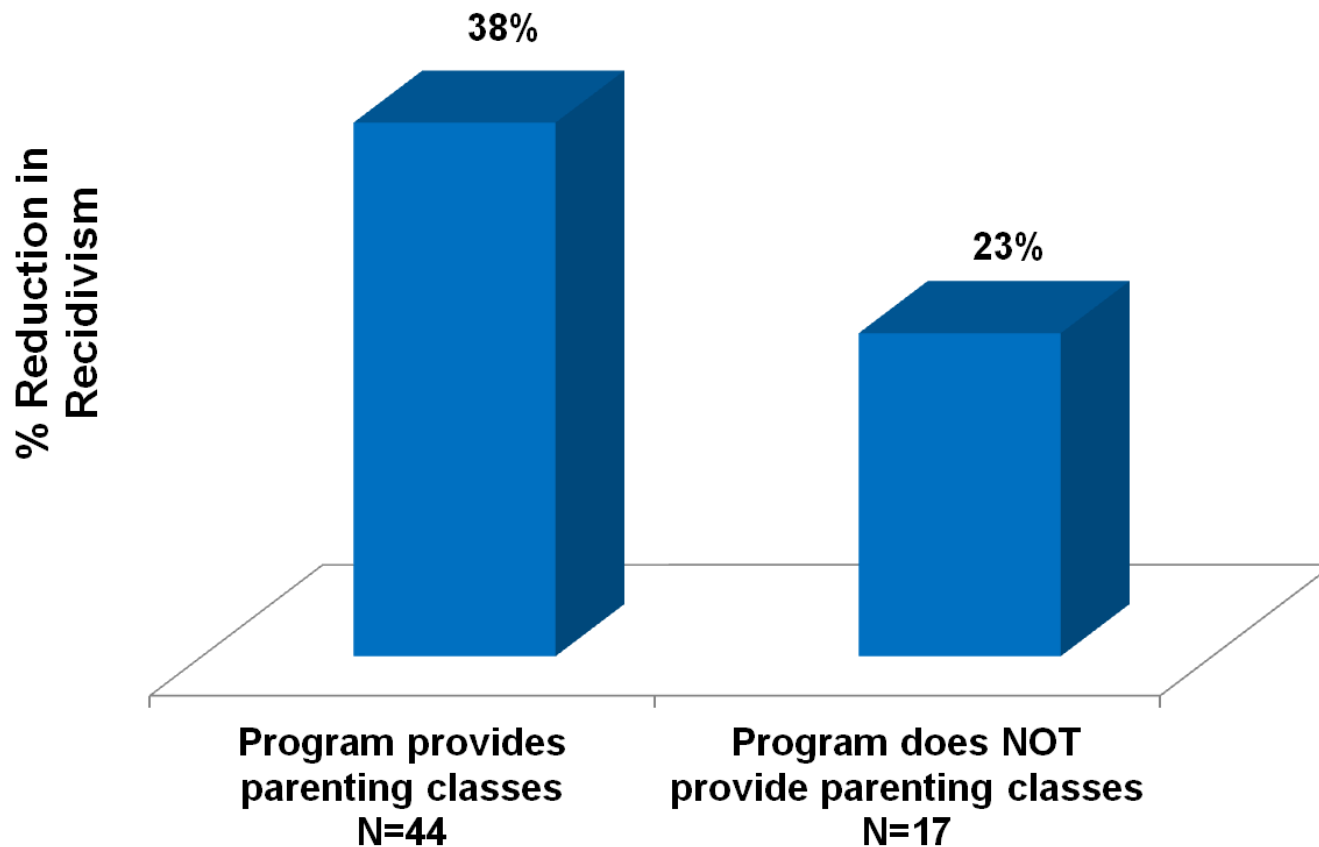


Note: Difference is significant at $p < .05$

Drug courts where the minimum length of the program was 12 months or more had 57% greater reductions in recidivism

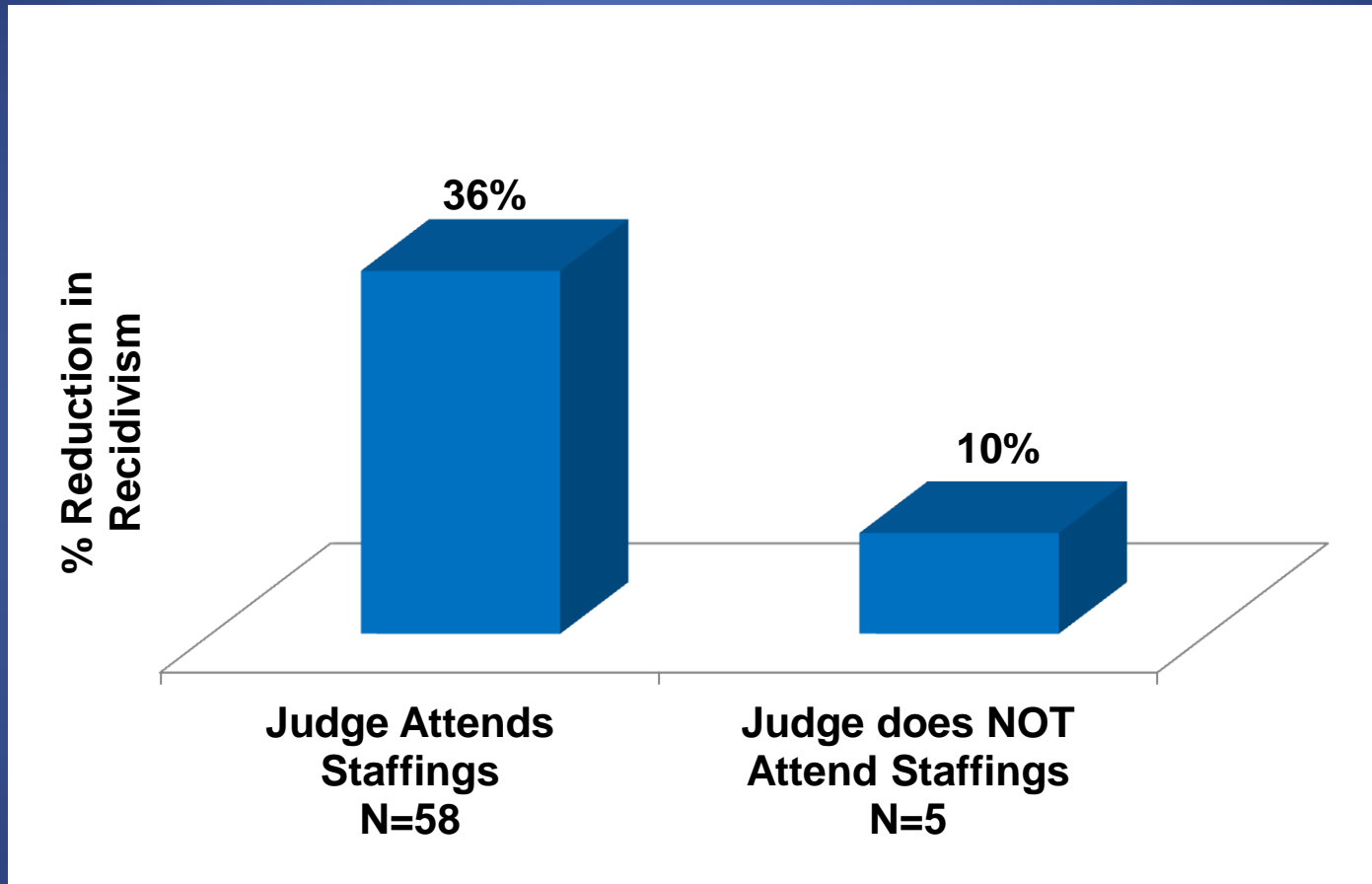


Drug courts that offer parenting classes had 68% greater reductions in recidivism and 52% greater cost savings



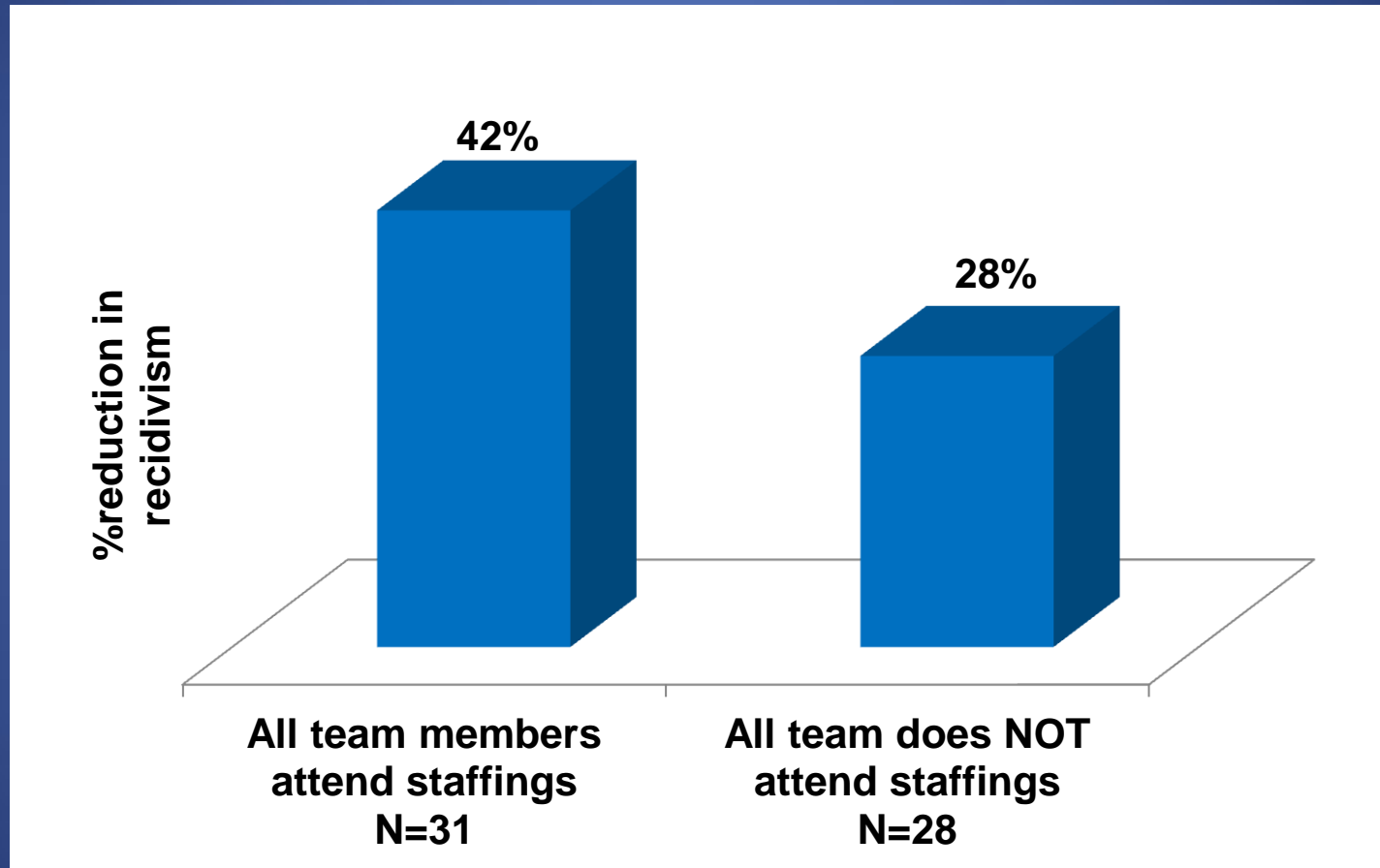
✓ True in adult, family, juvenile

Drug courts where the Judge attends staffings had 3.5 times greater reductions in recidivism



Note: Difference is significant at $p > .05$

Drug Courts where all team members attended staffings had 50% greater reductions in recidivism



Note : "Team Members" = Judge, Both Attorneys, Treatment Provider, Coordinator, Probation

Questions?

Conclusion



Before DC



After DC

Contact Information

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